BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of the Application regarding the Conversion and Acquisition of Control of Premera Blue Cross and its Affiliates, Docket No. G02-45
MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION

I. RELIEF REQUESTED

The Intervenor Groups seek the Commissioner's review of two of the deadlines contained in the Commissioner's Thirteenth Order dated September 18, 2003. The Interveners make this request because the deadlines imposed by the Thirteenth Order negatively impact on their ability to participate fully and meaningfully in this proceeding.

• The Deadline for Premera and Interveners to submit Final Expert Reports Should be Extended by Seven Days.

The Interveners request that the deadline for Premera and the Intervener to submit final expert reports be moved from November 10, 2003 to November 17, 2003. The reason for this request is that the Interveners will not receive the OIC Consultants' final reports until October 27, 2003. This does not provide adequate time for the Interveners' experts to review the Consultants' reports, and modify its own report if necessary, by the shortened deadline contained in the Thirteenth Order.

The Interveners' expert report is essential to the Interveners' position and is critical to the Commissioner's review of the proposed conversion. A one week extension means the difference between the Interveners being able to provide the information necessary to support their position to the Commissioner and not being able to do so. Any shorter timeframe essentially deprives the Interveners of being able to provide to the Commissioner a complete, comprehensive expert report on their concerns regarding the proposed conversion. This one week extension does not impact on any of the other deadlines set forth in the Thirteenth Order; nor does it negatively impact Premera's or the OIC Staff's ability to review the Interveners' expert report before deposing the experts.

The Deadline for Discovery Cut-Off Should be Extended by Seven Days

The Interveners request that the discovery cut-off deadline be moved from December 5, 2003 to December 12, 2003. Because the discovery rules provide that a party has 30 days to respond to a request for discovery, a discovery cut-off of December 5, 2003 will preclude the parties from being able to take additional necessary discovery after the OIC consultants' final reports are published (November 10, 2003). The Inteveners likely will need to take additional discovery and should not be prohibited from doing so by the truncated times set forth in the Thirteenth Order.

As with the extension of the deadline for submission of final expert reports, the proposed extension of time for discovery cut-off will not impose any hardship on the other parties nor will it impact the Commissioner's time within which to make a final decision on the proposed conversion. Accordingly, the Interveners request that the Commissioner modify the existing scheduling order to reflect the above requested changes.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2003. Respectfully submitted by: Amy McCullough, Alaska Bar Rule 43 Waiver James J. Davis, Alaska Bar #9412140 Alaska Legal Services Corporation Attorneys for James Garner, and Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center On behalf of Intervener Groups